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DE RUEHSG #0412 1261909  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 051909Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3210  
INFO RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0102

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000412

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CCA, WHA/BSC

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KDEM PHUM PREL CU CI  
SUBJECT: MAY 21: DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE

REFTEL: A) STATE 46997  
B) STATE 45792

¶1. (U) In response to reftel requests, Post provides the following initial plans for promoting Cuba Solidarity Day in Chile:

--DVC with senior USG officials and Chilean print media to highlight Cuba Solidarity Day and increase awareness in Chile about the plight of Cuba's prisoners of conscience and drum up support for democracy in Cuba. (Note: WHA A/S Shannon's DVC on Cuba with Chilean journalists in 2006 generated considerable media coverage in Chile. Secretary Gutierrez also would be a major draw in Santiago, if available.);

--Host on the Embassy's radio show (broadcasted on over 100 Chilean radio stations throughout the country) Chilean NGO and/or academic figures to discuss the political situation in Cuba;

-- Provide Chilean opinion makers and media contacts an information packet on Cuba Solidarity Day; and,

--Post on the Embassy website U.S.-based events and activities in support of Cuba Solidarity Day.

¶2. (SBU) One well-placed Foreign Ministry official told Poloff on May 5 that the Chilean government presently is not planning to promote Cuba Solidarity Day.

¶3. (U) Post will look for additional opportunities between now and May 21 to engage GOC officials and others to promote Cuba Solidarity day, as appropriate. (Note: May 21 is a national holiday in Chile. Therefore, Post will undertake any activities in support of Cuba Solidarity Day before then.)

SIMONS